

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently amended) Process for manufacturing a laminate, which at least comprises the application of a layer of polyamide to a substrate, ~~characterized in that~~ which as polyamide mainly branched polyamide is used that is at least composed of units derived from:

- a. AB monomers, which are understood to mean a monomer that has both a carboxylic acid group (A) and an amine group (B),
- b. at least one compound I, being a carboxylic acid (A_v) with functionality $v \geq 2$ or an amine (B_w) with functionality $w \geq 2$,
- c. at least one compound II, being a carboxylic acid (A_v) with functionality $v \geq 3$ or an amine (B_w) with functionality $w \geq 3$, with compound II being a carboxylic acid if compound I is an amine or with compound II being an amine if compound I is a carboxylic acid, wherein the quantities of units, derived from all the carboxylic acids and amines in the polyamide, satisfy formula 1

$$P < 1 / [(F_A - 1).(F_B - 1)] \quad (1)$$

in which:

$$P = [\sum(\eta_i \cdot f_i)]_X / [\sum(\eta_i \cdot f_i)]_Y \quad (2)$$

in which $P \leq 1$ and either $X = A$ and $Y = B$, or $X = B$ and $Y = A$ and

$$F = \sum(\eta_i \cdot f_i^2) / \sum \eta_i \cdot f_i \quad (3)$$

for respectively all carboxylic acids (F_A) and amines (F_B), wherein f_i is the functionality of a carboxylic acid (v_i) or amine (w_i), η_i is the number of moles of a carboxylic acid or amine and the summation is carried out over all units derived from carboxylic acids and amines in the polyamide.

2. (Original) Process according to claim 1, in which the layer of polyamide is applied by extrusion coating.

3. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 1 or 2, in which the substrate[[,]] is a metal or is paper or paperboard, optionally coated with a layer of a metal foil.

4. (Original) Laminate comprising a substrate and a layer consisting mainly of a branched polyamide that is at least composed of units derived from:

- a. AB monomers, which are understood to mean a monomer that has both a carboxylic acid group (A) and an amine group (B),
- b. at least one compound I, being a carboxylic acid (A_v) with functionality $v \geq 2$ or an amine (B_w) with functionality $w \geq 2$,
- c. at least one compound II, being a carboxylic acid (A_v) with functionality $v \geq 3$ or an amine (B_w) with functionality $w \geq 3$, with compound II being a carboxylic acid if compound I is an amine or with compound II being an amine if compound I is a carboxylic acid, wherein the quantities of units, derived from all the carboxylic acids and amines in the polyamide, satisfy formula 1

$$P < 1 / [(F_A - 1) \cdot (F_B - 1)] \quad (1)$$

in which:

$$P = [\sum(\eta_i \cdot f_i)]_X / [\sum(\eta_i \cdot f_i)]_Y \quad (2)$$

: in which $P \leq 1$ and either $X = A$ and $Y = B$, or $X = B$ and $Y = A$ and

$$F = \frac{\sum(\eta_i \cdot f_i^2)}{\sum(\eta_i \cdot f_i)} \quad (3)$$

for respectively all carboxylic acids (F_A) and amines (F_B), wherein f_i is the functionality of a carboxylic acid (v_i) or amine (w_i), η_i is the number of moles of a carboxylic acid or amine and the summation is carried out over all units derived from carboxylic acids and amines in the polyamide.

5. (Original) Use of the laminate according to claim 4 for manufacturing a packaging for foodstuffs.

6. (Original) Packaging for foodstuffs, comprising the laminate according to claim 4.

7. (New) Process according to claim 2, in which the substrate, is a metal or is paper or paperboard, optionally coated with a layer of a metal foil.

8. (New) Process for packaging foodstuffs which comprises providing a laminate according to claim 4, and packaging said foodstuffs therein.

9. (New) A packaged foodstuff comprising a wrapper comprising the laminate according to claim 4, and a foodstuff packaged within said wrapper.